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--Both of the cover members 214, 216 are mated with each other at the respective front ends. Each cover member 214, 216, as best seen in Figure 7, has an upper bolt hole 224 and a lower bolt hole 226, which are spaced generally vertically relative to each other. The front portion 210 of the driveshaft housing 108 also has a bolt hole 228. A pair of bolts 229 are, then, inserted into the bolt holes 224, 226, 228 and tightened to connect together the cover members 214, 216 and to connect the front portion 210 of the driveshaft housing 108. When affixed as described above, lower ends 232 of the cover members 214, 216 are positioned lower than the top surface 211 of the driveshaft housing 108 so that the space 210s is generally closed.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-15 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add following new claims:

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16. (New) A marine outboard drive comprising a housing having an outer surface and at least one recessed area lying next to and being recessed relative to a portion of the outer surface, a steering shaft pivotal about a steering axis, at least one mounting mechanism being disposed in the recessed area and being coupled to the steering shaft and to the housing, and mount cover including a pair of cover members configured to lie generally flush with at least the portion of the outer surface of the housing, each one of the cover members having a front portion with a front surface slanting forwardly and downwardly, the cover members being affixed to each other at lowermost sections of the respective front portions.